

"association for building and improving colonial towns on a systematic and pre-arranged plan. Objections are raised by one correspondent, whose opinion is entitled to much deference, that such a company would lead to jobbing, and to a hot-bed and forcing system, which is much to be deprecated in all measures of policy or improvement. And it is further recommended that the parties who have projected such a scheme should rather devote all their energies to the formation of a loan company, which would be a matter of simple routine and of undoubted utility, while it would leave the settlers to produce and improve on their own responsibility.

"We are sincerely desirous to see a loan company established, and the reiterated demand for such a means of encouragement from the colony again forces it upon our attention; but we think that by confining the operations of the Improvement Association to the encouragement of labour in the colony, by methodical and well-considered structural undertakings, all private works being projected in accordance with individual wishes, on contract with individual builders and speculators in the settlement, and requiring the direct employment of only one or two architects, in order to induce uniformity of design, and prevent that process of straggling, and that want of method, which has caused all the existing evils in the structural and sanitary arrangements of European towns—a certain good would be effected.

"A gentleman whom we have consulted on the subject, who has been in all the settlements, and who has bestowed much consideration on the wants and wishes of the colonists, points out to us further, that a general benefit would be produced by such an undertaking, in the reduction of house-rent, which is at present the main obstacle to one important and most desirable object—the colonization of New Zealand by Anglo-Indians. The party to whom we refer built a house in one of the settlements for 107*l.*, which he now lets for 100*l.* a year. He, doubtless, professes no objection to such interest for his money; but he sees clearly and allows, that, in the end, neither he nor any landowner in the colony will profit by the maintenance of such rents for any length of time.

"But, by whatever means the end is to be accomplished, and we ourselves are wedded to no particular system, it is full time that it were set about in earnest.

"Our readers will find several of the remarks we have quoted from the Wellington and Auckland papers, bearing strongly upon the necessity of more preparation—of the immediate application of labour and money to the construction of good dwellings, roads, and markets. The fire at Wellington is the very tide in the affairs of that settlement, the taking advantage of or omitting of which will make or mar the place. 'After the great fire of London,' says Captain Vetch, in a note to his communication to Mr. Chadwick on the structural arrangement of new buildings, 'had the plan of Sir Christopher Wren been adopted for the reconstruction of the city, that circumstance would have saved the great expenses which have been lately incurred in rendering the communications commodious; but no price could now achieve the conveniences and facilities which his plan would have conferred on the inhabitants during the long interval.'

"If it is, even in distant prospect, contemplated to make Wellington a city, worthy of the commercial metropolis of a great colony, worthy of the great name it has assumed; we must even now commence upon a scale commensurate with that object; houses, streets, roads, sewers, market-places, all public works and public buildings, must be projected in the very outset on a well-considered and substantial plan. Health, convenience, recreation, must be prospectively consulted in present arrangements; the past experience of our own towns warns us; the knowledge deduced from that experience must guide us. The warning is to be learnt in all its details in the statements afforded in the report we have just quoted from; and the lesson for the future is to be found in the same work, in the communications of Captain Vetch and others, on the structural arrangements most favourable to the health of towns; and in the contribution of Mr. Loudon, on the arrangement of public walks and arboretums, on the requisites of cottage architecture, &c. &c."

MR. BRUNEL.

It was on Saturday night that the intelligence fell in our way that all was safe, as regarded the late peril to the life of this eminent engineer, and we threw up our hands in thankfulness to God immediately. It was truly appalling to think of the sacrifice of a valuable life in such a manner, and in playing with children too! but the shield of the innocent has been thrown over him, and we trust he may live many years to the pleasure of his own family circle, and the distinguished ornament of his profession.

PORTABLE COTTAGES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE BUILDER.

SIR,—Having for some years past devoted considerable time to the designs and construction of portable cottages, and their erection in the northern parts of England, it appears to me, that if the simplicity of their construction was more generally known, many would be induced to erect such buildings.

The accompanying sketches are intended to elucidate a design for a small cottage, suitable for any description of habitation of limited convenience.

The foundations may be either of stone, brick, or timber, according to the abundance of the material in its locality, and may be built as piers or as foundations generally are. In the accompanying diagrams, I have shewn them of brick and stone, and laid in the usual manner.

Any style of architecture can be preserved, and with care and attention, be made as imperious to the elements of the season as the most permanent brick or stone edifice.

The material for filling in the space between the quarterings may be either of lead, zinc, marine metal, or corrugated iron, &c.

If you consider this system of building worth development in your journal (*which any panegyric of mine would fall short of appreciating*), I shall be most happy to supply a few for the same, exemplified with all the constructive and useful details, &c.

I remain, Sir,

Yours most obediently,

S. W. BROOKER.

May 6th, 1843.

Fig. 1.



FIG. 2.

